

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 01320 251116Z POSS DUPE
ACTION SS-25

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O P 251103Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2393
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01320

EXDIS
CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV RH UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: OBSERVERS AT MALTA MEETING

REF: (A) LAGOS 1010, (B) DAR ES SALAAM 314

1. EMBASSY OFFICER INFORMED JOHNNY GRAHAM THAT BOTH
MACHEL AND NYERERE ARE CONSIDERING SENDING OBSERVERS TO
THE MALTA MEETING WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (REF B).
GRAHAM IN TURN CONFIRMED THAT GARBA (BY PHONE) HAD
RAISED SIMILAR POSSIBILITY WITH OWEN WHEN HE TRANSITED
HERE LAST WEEKEND AND THAT THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT
IS ALSO PLANNING TO SEND A GROUP TO MALTA, POSSIBLY
INCLUDING SONNY RAMPHAL.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER SPECULATED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFI-
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CULT TO REFUSE A REQUEST BY THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS TO
SEND OBSERVERS, AND THAT THE PRESENCE OF OBSERVERS
MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO NEGOTIATE IN A
REASONABLE FASHION. GRAHAM SAID FCO WOULD NOT OBJECT
TO A FEW OBSERVERS IN MALTA BUT WOULD STRONGLY RESIST
THE PRESENCE OF OBSERVERS AT THE NEGOTIATING SESSIONS.
GRAHAM SAID THAT A GROUP OF OBSERVERS WOULD CONJURE UP

THE IMAGE AND DIFFICULTIES OF ANOTHER GENEVA. MOREOVER, OBSERVERS BY THEIR MERE PRESENCE AT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD ACCORD SPECIAL STATUS TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WHEN OUR INTENTION IS TO PLACE MALTA IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CONTINUING NEGOTIATING EFFORTS WITH ALL THE PARTIES. FCO, HE SAID, IS ALREADY TRYING TO DISSUADE THE COMMONWEALTH.

3. COMMENT: IF SOME OF THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS GO AHEAD WITH THEIR IDEA TO SEND OBSERVERS TO MALTA, WE WILL NEED EARLY GUIDANCE HERE WHETHER OBSERVERS WOULD BE A) WELCOMED ONLY ON THE FRINGES OF MALTA, OR B) INCLUDED IN THE NEGOTIATING ROOM.

4. AS A NOTE ON REFTTEL A, IT IS UNLIKELY OWEN HIMSELF DRAFTED THE MESSAGE ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH GARBA. FIRST PERSON REPORTING IS CUSTOMARY FCO STYLE.

BREWSTER

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